

**Amendments to the Specification:**

**Please substitute the following amended paragraph for the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 13:**

The pillars 23 are rectangular solids. Each of the pillars 23 has a ~~thread~~ threaded portion 231 to secure the pillars 23 in the pivot points 213 of the base 21, such that the distance  $d_1$  between two pillars 23 is divided equally by the centerline 211. Moreover, the connection line of the pillars is perpendicular to the centerline 211.

**Please substitute the following amended abstract for the abstract on page 9:**

An apparatus for splitting a test piece. ~~The apparatus~~ includes a base, two pillars and a sliding piece. The base has a centerline. The pillars are disposed on the base. The connection line between the pillars is perpendicular to and divided equally by the centerline. The sliding piece disposed on the base has two fingers parallel to the centerline, and the connection line between the tips of the fingers is perpendicular to and divided equally by the centerline. When splitting a test piece, the sliding piece is pushed to split the test piece along the slits by the fingers and the pillars.